Friday
November 17, 2017

TODAY **84 / 68** Breezy and warm

SATURDAY **77 / 46** Windy, becoming cooler

SUNDAY **64 / 40** Sunny and cooler

Statesman Weather App: Live radar, weather news and alerts.

$2.00

Austin American-Statesman

statesman.com | mystatesman.com

AUSTIN360

JUSTICE LEAGUE

... and the best of the weekend's entertainment

SPORTS, C1

GOLDEN: HORNS FACE MUST-WIN IN HOSTILE TERRITORY

TAX LEGISLATION

House GOP enjoys wins on tax plan

Rep. Kevin Brady, R-The Woodlands, with other House Republicans, touts Thursday's sweeping rewrite of the U.S. tax code. AL DRAGO / THE NEW YORK TIMES

With some Republican senators still voicing their skepticism, final version of overhaul faces obstacles.

By Alan Fram and Marcy Gordon
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Republicans rammed a $1.5 trillion overhaul of business and personal income taxes through the House on Thursday, edging toward the code's biggest rewrite in three decades and the first major legislative triumph for President Donald Trump and the GOP after 10 bumpy months of controlling government.

The mostly party-line 227-205 vote masked more ominous problems in the Senate. There, a similar package received a politically awkward verdict from nonpartisan congressional analysts showing it would eventually produce higher taxes for low- and middle-income earners but deep reductions for those better off.

Those projections came a day after Wisconsin Sen. Ron Johnson became the first GOP senator to state opposition to the measure, saying it didn't cut levies enough for millions of partnerships and

Taxes continued on **A9**

NEW DETAILS CODENEXT

Feedback review stalls CodeNext by 2 months or more

By Philip Jankowski
pjankowski@statesman.com

The city of Austin announced Thursday that it has hit a snag in the development of CodeNext and delayed the release of its next draft of the sweeping zoning and land use plan by more than two months, likely setting back its potential approval and implementation.

Interim Assistant City Manager Joe Pantalion cited a need to more thoroughly parse feedback received on the second draft of CodeNext's code and zoning map in his decision to delay the release of the third draft from Nov. 28 to Feb. 12.

"Today's announcement is good for Austin," Mayor Steve Adler said in a statement. "I'm glad the staff will take the time to deliver a good recommendation as I, and others, have urged them to do. I heard the community request we take our time to get CodeNext right and also to finally get it done."

CodeNext is the city's attempt to implement the recommendations

DECODING CODENEXT
Visit CodeNext Hub at codenexthub.org for extensive coverage of CodeNext by the American-Statesman and other leading Central Texas news outlets. Follow us on Twitter: @codenexthub.

CodeNext continued on **A9**

NEW DETAILS HOMELESS IN AUSTIN

Christopher Doolin, who is homeless, walks along Riverside Drive on Thursday. "Every day I worry about where I will get my next meal," he says. Proponents of Austin's ordinances argue they are a way to get people to seek city services, but an audit said such measures are ineffective. RICARDO B. BRAZZIELL / AMERICAN-STATESMAN

Ordinances don't help homeless, audit finds

Similar policies in other cities have run into legal trouble.

By Elizabeth Findell
efindell@statesman.com

Austin policies that seek to keep homeless people from sleeping in public aren't doing any good – either for the city or its homeless population, according to an audit released this week.

Such policies prevent people from pulling themselves out of homelessness by giving them criminal records, are not an efficient use of city resources and might put the city at legal risk, the audit said.

The audit is the first of a series of city reviews on how Austin handles homelessness amid a debate over where to find resources to address the issue.

A few months ago officials increased the lighting and police presence around the Austin Resource Center for the Homeless, better known as the ARCH, while city staffers have looked at the possibility of using recreation centers to temporarily house homeless people. Mayor Steve Adler included more money for homeless services in his proposed "Downtown Puzzle" to fund an expansion of the Austin Convention Center.

The audit released this week focused on Austin ordinances that ban panhandling downtown between 7 p.m. and 7 a.m., prohibit camping in public city areas and outlaw sitting or lying down in parts of downtown unless waiting for a bus or using an official bench. The city issued 18,000 citations for those things from 2014 to 2016.

Homeless continued on **A5**

CONTINUING COVERAGE MISSING STUDENT

Missing sisters found safe, but case raises questions

By Mark Wilson
mdwilson@statesman.com

As the welcome news came Thursday that three missing Austin sisters had been found safe in Florida, questions remained about how long it took school officials to learn one child was missing and why authorities didn't send out a statewide Amber Alert.

Two of the sisters had been in foster care since Nov. 3, when authorities learned their mother had allowed their father, 46-year-old Anthony Joseph Jordan II, to live with the family, counter to directives by state case workers. Anthony Jordan had been accused of sexually assaulting the oldest girl, 16, court records show.

Two of the girls had been missing since Tuesday, when their mother, Sarah Marcella Jordan, 38, abducted the youngest girl, 10, and a middle child, 13, from school, according to an arrest affidavit. She was arrested Thursday in Pensacola, Fla., and charged with interference with child custody, officials said. Authorities didn't say whether anyone else had been charged in the case.

According to an arrest affidavit, Sarah Jordan and the 16-year-old, who was not an Austin student, went to Oak Hill Elementary School on Tuesday search-

Missing continued on **A5**

ONLY IN THE EPAPER

Check out Tech Extra in today's ePaper

Statesman subscribers can find four pages of personal technology coverage at **statesman.com/epaper**.

NATION & WORLD, A4

Franken groped me, radio anchor claims

Democratic senator apologizes for behavior on USO tour in 2006, faces an ethics investigation.

INDEX

Business	B6
Deaths	B4
Comics	B9
Sports	C1
Classifieds	C8

To subscribe: Call 512-445-4040 or visit **statesman.com/subscribe**
© 2017 Austin American-Statesman
Vol. 147 No. 115

CANON PRO 100 PRINTER

STAND ALONE OFFER
Reg: $499.99
Sale: $349.99
- $50 Instant Rebate
- $200 Mail-in Rebate
$99.99

W/EOS CAMERA PURCHASE
Reg: $499.99
Sale: $349.99
- $50 Instant Rebate
- $300 Mail-in Rebate
FREE